



KRUEGER-SCOTT MANSION CULTURAL CENTER

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Newark High Street Mansion Receives Maximum Award From Historic Trust

"I am very pleased to report that the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center has received \$1.1 million, the maximum grant award given to a landmark building by the New Jersey Historic Trust," says Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker, executive director of the Center.

The New Jersey Historic Trust is a nonprofit historic preservation organization that provides matching grant assistance in the restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic properties listed in the State Register of Historic Places with the belief that historic preservation encourages increased tourism, provides unparalleled opportunities for education, and plays a significant role in downtown and neighborhood revitalization efforts. The Krueger-Scott Mansion is an historic landmark and is on both the National and the New Jersey State Registers of Historic Places.

"The Krueger-Scott Mansion is a magnificent building with very great needs. By awarding these funds for its restoration, the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Historic Trust recognizes the high level of commitment required to ensure this project's success," states Harriette C. Hawkins, executive director of the New Jersey Historic Trust.

As one of the few remaining residences testifying to the Newark's past industrial importance, the Krueger-Scott Mansion has statewide significance. It is an outstanding example of highly ornamented Victorian design both inside and out. Gottfried Krueger, a German immigrant and wealthy brewer, built the mansion as his home in 1888. In recent times, Newark's first African-American millionaire Louise Scott lived and operated her beauty school in the Mansion and is credited with having saved the building from certain destruction. Although in need of much repair, the Krueger-Scott Mansion has remained a constant presence in Newark's Central Ward.

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Portions of the grant monies have been used for exterior renovations, including the structural shoring and underpinning; exterior masonry stabilization, restoration and cleaning; slate roofing repairs including flashing, gutters, and accessories. These exterior renovations were guided by a team of restoration experts that include Kenneth A. Underwood, FAIA, historic architect from Grad Associates.

The Trust has also provided funding for the restoration of the Mansion's first floor interiors that includes restoration of missing and damaged woodwork, parquet flooring, decorative plaster and marble mantelpieces; installation of period lighting; repair of windows and doors; and the monumental central staircase.

"The Mansion will need skillful restoration. It's a time consuming, arduous process. But it's necessary and I am committed to restoring this house to its original splendor. The Community deserves nothing less," says Lenix-Hooker.

The Mansion and its surrounding site is presently being restored to become a premier African-American facility for the study and interpretation of the visual and performing arts. The City of Newark has demonstrated its intent to support the restoration of the Mansion and the rehabilitation of the entire block through its bond initiatives and the project will be seeking additional public and private grants to assist in both the rehabilitation of the building and the operation of the facility.

"Once the initial phases of the rehabilitation are completed and the Mansion has been readied for occupancy, I envision a building alive with activities including African-American traveling and permanent exhibitions; museum dedicated to Louise Scott; artists and scholars-in-residency programs that will train youngsters in art, theater, dance, and literature; Scott Joplin parlour concerts; community organizations meeting spaces; performing arts events; and historical lectures and guided tours of the Mansion," explains Lenix-Hooker.